



TRINITY
CHURCH

HELLO
September



Printed August 24, 2022

Note from the Lead Pastor

Summer is a joy! We get to experience the warmth of the sun, the beauty of flowers, the greening (and sometimes browning) of the landscape around us. Crops are growing. Kids are playing outside. Bike paths and parks are filled with activity. What have you enjoyed this summer? Hopefully you had time away to be refreshed.

Summer has truly been a gift for me this year. I was able to take extended time to the mountains, one of the few places I can be disconnected. There is no internet, cell signal is spotty, and except for my camping partners, I am miles away from other people. In the mountain air, sunshine and landscape, there is refreshment, renewal, healing, and clarity, with space to think, process, and listen to the gentle whispers of the Spirit. In addition to the blessing of the mountains, I also had time with one of my sisters and her husband. We spent several days at my home and also travelled through part of Nebraska together. I was reminded of what a beautiful state we have to enjoy.

Time away is important; the Bible calls this sabbath. God blesses us in sabbath. He is there in our physical heights, like on the mountains. He is also with us through the intangible heights of joy, fun, relaxation, and recreation. One reality from the heights, however, is that there is only one place to go: back into life.

So how do we make this transition? As I moved from the joy of my mountain get away to the reality of life, I was reminded of these words from Psalm 18:33 "He made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights." God strengthens and stabilizes each of us as we move from the heights back into normalcy. The promise that He will neither abandon nor forsake us is proven every day. Back to traveling on the level places, back to work or school, back to responsibility and accountability, back to serving God, know this: Our loving God walks through every day and every moment of life with us.

With the changing of seasons from summer to fall, our challenge is discerning how we will respond to the God who walks with us. Some questions to consider: How will we serve Him and others? How will our generosity of time and resources bless those around us? What commitments will we make to God? How will we grow in faith? What will we do to walk more closely with Him? What steps will we take to draw closer to others in community? How will we build relationships with those who do not know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior yet? How will we reach out to our one? What opportunities will be provided that we will seize for God's sake?

God is good. God is walking with you as you leap from the heights into everyday life. I look forward to hearing how you would answer these questions. I also look forward to walking with you and God into life in the days ahead.

Your Pastor and Friend

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Erik".



A big shout out to all who helped make this an awesome day. We appreciate you! Thanks to:

- Scout Troop #888
- Those who manned inflatables, the connection group and serving booths, the junk-food walk, and BINGO
- the set up team & clean up crew

A special shout out to Pasquale Mingarelli for his photography, the food trucks and the face painters.

2022 was a blast!!

Celebrate! 
at Trinity Church

A Note from Our Intern

SEMINARY UPDATE

As I am finishing up Internship, quite a few people have asked if I'm done with seminary and how much longer before ordination. With Internship ending, I still have several classes to finish up. It's a bit of a process to organize, in addition to working with multiple entities, to figure out a time line and what is still required.

As a non-traditional seminary student, I am working with Synod Candidacy consistently to determine the details of expectations, working with Luther Seminary (required affiliation for denominational purposes), plus working with my primary seminary, Sioux Falls Seminary. That sentence alone may lead you to understand the difficulty of nailing down the finality of my seminary experience! As of now, I know I have five classes remaining through Luther Seminary which include two Old Testament classes, a New Testament class, an Ethics class, and a Leadership class. Following those classes, I hope to get some clarity on what classes are still needed through Sioux Falls Seminary, as well as any other necessary Synod Candidacy requirements. All that to say, I still don't have a clear or known done-with-seminary-date but do have a bit more clarity on expectations. Please continue to pray for my process and also for the Synod Candidacy team to be clear in their expectations so that I can move along and bring this process to completion.

Matt Pearson, Pastoral Intern

MEN'S GROUP AND WOMEN'S CO-ED STUDY GROUP

The Sunday morning men's and women's groups are combining for an awesome 5-week study. You're invited!

Ruthless Elimination of Hurry

by Pastor and author, John Mark Comer

9:00 a.m. beginning September 11 in the Trinity Students wing

We are all busy. Some of us can't remember the last time we rested or even had free time. Our busyness can feel productive but it is a toxic distraction, sapping our spiritual, physical, and emotional vitality. It may seem like we have no choice but to live at a frantic pace, but God has a better path for us. In this series through RightNow Media, John Mark Comer addresses one of the greatest threats to our spiritual lives: hurry. Instead of allowing our calendars and screens to control our lives, Jesus offers us a new rhythm of life, overflowing with grace, peace, and beauty.

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/729101>

Text TRINITYLIFE to 49775 to get your FREE RightNow Media account.

A Note about Discipleship from Pastor Dave

Last November, we started a men's discipleship group with this simple concept: six guys meet weekly to invest in each other's lives. I knew the group would be good; I can't describe how much this group has meant to me over the past nine months. It's been beautiful to see how God has brought our lives together as we show up weekly to reflect on a passage, talk about real-life issues, and support each other in prayer.

My goal for discipleship at Trinity Church is for each adult to regularly participate in a group where we love God, grow community, and serve others. If you're not already connected to one, this article is my appeal that you explore our groups and plan to participate this fall. Groups have no prerequisites; whether you're new to Christian faith or have a theological degree, you'll feel right at home in one of our three group types:

- **CONNECTION GROUPS** meet approximately twice a month. Most enjoy a meal together, catch up on each other's lives, explore a biblical topic of shared interest, and challenge each other to offer their lives in service to God and others. Connection Groups are comprised of individuals and couples. Several include children in their regular gatherings.
- **DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS** are all about- growth and life application. We offer men's and women's groups that meet on Sunday mornings and a verse-by-verse Bible study on Wednesday evenings. In addition to these, we have also launched some Discipleship Groups designed to bring six people together to reflect on a Bible passage (currently reading Mark's Gospel), discuss life's challenges and triumphs, and support each other in prayer.
- **ACTIVITY GROUPS** bring people together around a shared interest. Our current options are men's basketball and quilters. We have a strong desire to add more Activity Groups based on interest. Reach out to me (prdave@trinitylife.org) and we'll talk about your ideas. More than likely in our midst there are one or more fishermen, bikers, runners, bakers, etc. who share your interest.

In addition, Trinity hosts short term groups and courses, including Emotionally Healthy Relationship which begins Wednesday, September 14. This eight-week course is a must for anyone ready to mature their faith. Do you avoid conflict, suppress emotions, run from God? This course is for you! Past participants have benefited greatly, learning about and implementing transformational spiritual disciplines that has grown their faith.

Find your Group or Course
WWW.NEXTSTEPS.GUIDE

Looking forward to connecting to Christ with you,

Pastor Dave, Associate Pastor

TRINITY CONNECTION COURSES

Do you want to explore your next step at Trinity Church and the important role that you will play in God's work here? Trinity Connection Courses help paint a clear picture of what it looks like to Connect to Christ in our body of Jesus followers. These four brief, yet meaningful, gatherings are for those new to Trinity and those who have been part of God's church for years. (See topic list below)

**Sundays from 10:05 - 10:28
In the Chapel**

**Courses run every month; attend when you are able.
Children are welcome.**

1ST SUNDAY

101

WELCOME

We're so glad
you're here!

Pastoral welcome

Overview

Stories of our God
at work through
the mission He has
given Trinity
Church

How do we
respond?

2ND SUNDAY

201

GROWTH

Get on the
path

What does a
mature follower of
Jesus look like?

What was Jesus'
method for
growth?

How can my family
and I grow at
Trinity Church?

3RD SUNDAY

301

SERVING

Because people
matters

Why did Jesus
serve?

Who did Jesus
serve?

What does His
example have to
do with you?

How can my family
and I serve inside &
outside the
church?

4TH SUNDAY

401

COMMITMENT

Join the
mission

Why commit to
God's mission?

What does it mean
to commit to Jesus
through Trinity
Church?

What are the
expectations of a
Trinity Church
member?



TRINITY KIDS

When we don't know how to answer our kid's questions about faith...

I had an experience yesterday where one of my foster daughter's asked me, "Mom, why do you love Jesus so much?" At first I think my jaw hit the floor with a big smile on my face because I was so honored that she could tell how much I love Jesus. But then I stared blankly at her because I didn't know how to respond. Why do I love Jesus so much? Why is that such a hard answer? How do I explain in kid terms how I connect with Him? As I was rushed with all of these thoughts and questions, feeling like I had to give her an answer, I responded, "Because He died on the cross for me so that I can be in relationship with him."

Let me tell you... For the rest of the day I harped on myself for not giving her a personal response on how Jesus has been in relationship with me, because he pursues me! It's not that there was anything wrong with my answer, but it also wasn't a response that was going to help my daughter grow in her relationship with Christ as an individual. After an entire day of overthinking my response to her, at dinner I decided to be honest. I said to her, "...so, I've been thinking about that question you asked me this morning all day long, and I didn't like the answer I gave you." I went on to tell her that through my life I have learned to listen for the Holy Spirit and I constantly ask for Him to be with me in every experience. I explained that when I feel sad I can talk to Jesus. When I am full of joy and excitement I can tell him about it and the more that we talk to Him about what is going on in our lives, the more we learn how to listen for His voice in response. At the end of our conversation she let out a big kid like, "Oh!" and we moved on.

I tell you this story to give you permission to **be honest with your kids**. When they ask questions about faith, don't feel like you have to respond in the moment like I did. Take the time to reflect on the question and let the Holy Spirit and other Christ followers guide you in your response. Relate your responses to **kid friendly feelings and experiences**.

As Christ followers, we don't have all the answers- That's why we need a beautiful Savior! It's okay to admit we aren't sure and to take time to respond to the hard stuff. Kids would rather us be honest, than rush into a response they can't relate to. *What faith based questions have your kids been asking lately? Is there any way I can support you in answering them?*



Kayla Florum
Children's and Family Minister
kflorum@trinitylife.org

[Register for RESPITE Night](#)
[nextsteps.guide](#)

CONFIRMATION

3-YEAR MINISTRY



Life Transformation

Preparing to follow Jesus



Monthly

Meet Up

August 25, noon-2 pm



Trinity Church

848 Gold Coast Rd
Papillion, NE 68046

PURPOSE

Trinity Church partners with parents to effectively prepare their student for Confirmation Sunday when they affirm the promises made over them in baptism and commit to following Jesus.

Student Oriented

Parent Led

Pastor Supported

**WHEN YOUR
STUDENT IS
READY OR ASKING
FAITH QUESTIONS!**

REGISTER
nextsteps.guide

Grades 6-12



TRINITY STUDENTS

Wednesdays* 6:45-8:15 pm

Enter through the NE door

Open gym, video & board games, Trinity Store, and food starts at 6 pm

**When Papillion LaVista school district is not in session, Trinity Students does not meet.*

Getting REAL in September!



It's easy to spot a fake friend (and even easier to be a fake friend at times), but what's not-so-easy is figuring out how to make and keep friendships that are **real**. Maybe it's just easier to keep our friendships on the surface. Or maybe we've never seen real friendship in real life before. Or maybe we don't actually know anyone we trust enough to be real with. These days, when "friends" are just a click or a follow away, it's more important than ever to figure out what true friendship really

looks like. In this 4-week series, at Trinity Students we'll explore the words and stories of Jesus, the disciples, Paul, Timothy, David, and Jeremiah to help us understand what authentic friendship looks like. Together, we'll discover that real friends choose each other wisely, show each other grace, comfort each other in hard times, and help each other grow.



Chase Florum
Student and Family Minister
cflorum@trinitylife.org



Save the Date

ELEVATE!!

October 14-16

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years

- 09/15 - Warren Sylvester
- 09/17 - Doris Hammel
- 09/17 - Norm Schuessler
- 09/20 - Ed Gates
- 09/29 - Alice Bailey

50+ Anniversaries

- 09/08/67 - Allen & Carolyn Christensen

Baptized into Our Faith Family

- 08/14 - Cecelia Marie Guardiola, daughter of Bryan Guardiola and Christen Tschudin., Cecelia's sponsor is Erin Stubbe

OUR VISION: A place to belong and become who God is calling us to be.

OUR MISSION: Connecting People to Christ

OUR STRATEGY: Love God | Grow Community | Serve Others



**CURIOUS ABOUT
BAPTISM**

Attend Trinity's Baptism Basics class
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
11:45 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Stay up to date at all that's happening at Trinity Church
WWW.NEXTSTEPS.GUIDE

TRINITY CHURCH IS GENEROUS

Our Tithes and Offerings
Connect People to Christ!

GIVING JULY

Offering Entries = 481

of: Donors = 214 | New Donors = 5 | Recurring = 89

Source: Electronic Giving = 299 | Cash & Checks = 182

Total Gifts Received = \$123,372

General Fund: \$84,175

Go Vision Appeal Fund: \$36,753

All other giving*: \$2,444

*includes Papio Creek, Memorials, TK Mary Kamara, Trinity Students, Trinity Kids, Little Miracles, Food Pantry, Stephen Center

JULY ENDING BALANCES

General Fund: \$ -47,948

Building Fund: \$ 116,174

Endowment: \$ 369,505

GO Fund May 2021- April 2024

Received as of 08/24- \$600,864

50% of our \$1.2 million goal

from 2087 donations

1605 from pledges | 482 from non-pledged

General Fund 2022

Received as of 08/24 - \$546,660

62% of our \$878,584 goal

from 3023 donations

1209 from pledges / 1814 from non-pledged

We have good work
to do as we follow
God's lead in 2022.



SCAN ME
to pledge to the
General Fund in 2022

God is doing great things.
Join Him in His work for us through Trinity Church
www.nextsteps.guide and click **GIVE**